

# News & EVENTS

## at Petersburg Lutheran Church

*“To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to Show the Love of Christ”*



September 2022



### Council Highlights

The Church Council met on Wednesday, August 17th and discussed the following:

- Thank you to Dave and Nancy Berg, Bev Siercks, John Swanson, and Katey Gilpin for helping with insulation at the parsonage on Saturday, August 13.
- President Bev Siercks reported that the Membership Roll has been updated with 253 members and 130 voting members, so 26 voting members are needed for the special congregational meeting on September 25th, 2022.
- Pastor Zach, his wife Karen, and their dog Huck will begin their exit strategy by heading out on the ferry to Prince Rupert with their truck on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Zach is planning to return Saturday, September 17th, 2022. Pastor Zach stated that he will be here until the Call Committee is in place and all the paperwork is in order to move forward with the call of a new pastor.
- The Council will meet on Wednesday, August 24th, 2022 to pray about the names and select the remainder of the Call Committee.
- Future Events: Blessing of students and teachers on Sunday, August 28th, 2022, Baptism of Beckett Thain on Sunday, September 18th, 2022.
- A date has been set for the Good Beginnings 25th Anniversary celebration: Sunday, November 13th, 2022.
- Council voted to suspend the monthly benevolence that PLC gives to Good Beginnings (during the 9-month school year), for the remainder of the calendar year. This is due to the good financial health of Good Beginnings, and can be resumed at any time as needed.
- Council discussed improvements needed at the parsonage.
- ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands."- a family event - is scheduled for September 11, 2022. Council decided to create a list of projects around the church, the parsonage, and the Rebi Hus that need to be done.
- Six-Month Evaluation of Transition was discussed by Council and Pastor Zach.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – [Bev Siercks](#)  
(907-772-4330)

Vice President – [Bill Moulton](#) (907-518-1485)

Treasurer - [Robin Roberts](#)  
(907-518-0052)

Secretary – [Ginger Evens](#) (907-772-4392)

[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

[Desi Burrell](#) (907-772-3665)

[John Small](#) (907-772-2718)

[Chris van Ettinger](#)

[Bridgett Wittstock](#)  
(907-518-1413)

*Newsletter Editor:*  
[Robin Roberts](#)

**\*Reminder:** The Congregational meeting to vote on removing By-Law 3.07 will be held on Sunday, September 25 at 11am, immediately after worship. More information was provided in a letter to each congregation member in mid-August.

**Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, September 21<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**  
**Meetings are open to all Congregation members.**

## **New Member Classes and Baptism Opportunities Coming!**

Pastor Zach will be offering **Membership classes in September for those wishing to join.** Classes will be offered following worship for two Sundays: **September 11 and 18**, and there will be a New Member Reception on October 2. There is also the opportunity for baptisms at the same time or later this fall. ***Please let the church office know if you are interested!***



## **Call Committee**

Thanks to Jennifer Bryner, Jim Engell, Becky Martin, Brenda Norheim, Jim Roberts, and Jody Tow who have agreed to serve as our Call Committee! While the Transition Team has done much of the legwork collecting information to build the congregational site profile that will represent the congregation on paper, the Call Committee will not only help shape that document's final form, but will act as the face of the congregation when interviewing candidates to serve as our future Pastor, as well as representing each of you when being interviewed by those same candidates as they learn more about our community of faith.

**Serve one another with whatever gift  
each of you has received.**

**- 1 Peter 4:10**



## **Financial Health**

PLC continues this year “in the red,” – spending more than we receive in donations. Our expenses continue every month for salaries, utilities, and building maintenance, but giving to support the church has not been keeping up.

*Please give prayerful thought to increasing your support of the Church and its missions.*

**Giving minus Expenses for the month of July were: \$783.71.**

**Giving minus Expenses for the year so far: -\$38,660.04.**

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church or mailing it in. Electronic donations can be made using the [Online Giving button on the PLC web site](#), or on your mobile device by installing the [Vanco Mobile app](#) – just choose “Petersburg Lutheran Church” and make your donation.



## **Planning for the Future**

In the past two years, our family has experienced two deaths that were significantly impacted by end-of-life planning. In one case the person’s final illness, passing, funeral, and disposition of their estate was managed in accordance with their wishes, and understood by their loved ones – because they had an up-to-date Will, Advanced Medical Directive, and other health care and end-of-life documents in order. The other death occurred after a tragic accident, where the person fell and hit their head. They were found and taken to the hospital in a coma, but the hospital had no idea who to contact on their behalf. It took four days for our family to find out, possibly delaying critical health care decisions. Ultimately, this person only marginally awakened from the coma, and passed away a few months later. Unlike the first family member, this person did not have an Advanced Health Care Directive or a designated health care proxy to make decisions for them. A brother had to go to court and go through a lengthy and expensive process to be named the person’s Guardian, in order to make health care decisions while the person was still alive but unable to act for themselves. Our family had no idea about the person’s

wishes as we were faced with making some gut-wrenching decisions. After the person died, all the decisions about this person's estate were left to the state's courts because there was no Will.

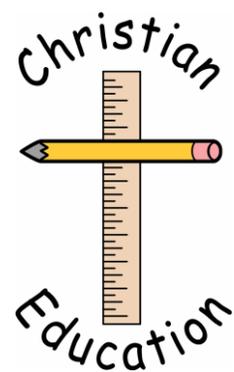
Have you made a Will, completed an Advanced Health Care Directive (such as [Five Wishes](#), available online or at Petersburg Medical Center clinic), or prepared any other end-of-life documents? If you already have these documents, *have you kept them up to date?* It shouldn't be morbid or depressing to talk about what happens to our body and our possessions when we die – we all will die one day, and go on to the Great Reward that awaits us in God's Kingdom.

It's important to give your loved ones guidance about what your wishes are, to help them when they are experiencing shock and grief, reeling from your loss or a traumatic injury. It's a great kindness to tell them what to do with your mortal remains, what kind of funeral you want, which readings and hymns have meaning for you, etc. It's also important to provide guidance about how to distribute the assets you leave behind, to help ease decisions that can be overwhelming, emotionally charged, or divisive for families. Planning for the future, and updating that plan periodically can make a huge difference in your care and quality of life at life's end, and will make a very difficult job much easier for your loved ones left behind.

As you consider what to do with your assets after you pass on, consider donating part of your estate to your church. A gift directed to specific things that are important to you or given to the church to use however it needs, will make a great impact on the church and its good works. Check out the helpful information and services available through the ELCA's web site for planned giving to your church or to the ELCA at [lutherangiving.org](http://lutherangiving.org).

## Good Beginnings Pre-School

We are delighted that Hayley Short has been hired as the new director/lead teacher of Good Beginnings! The Board is currently looking for an assistant teacher.



## September 3%

*Every month, 3% of our General Giving goes to a different outreach ministry. As a congregation, we vote on the list of ministries for the upcoming year during our Annual Meeting each year. If you have suggestions for other ministries that we should consider, please give that information to a Council member.*

The recipient of our 3% giving for September is Prisoners for Christ in Woodinville, WA. Serving over 450,000 inmates in 30 countries with study Bibles, correspondence Bible study, training and support for prison volunteers and chaplains, and now video production capabilities to deliver online outreach to all 50 U.S. states, Prisoners for Christ brings the Good News to those who need God's guidance and care.



## Prayer Partner

September's Prayer Partner is the Alaska Synod's [Mesa Sagrada](#). Mesa Sagrada (Sacred Table in Spanish) is a group of folks who gather the second Saturday of each month at 5 PM for dinner church. They share a meal, discuss a Scripture passage around the table and then share in Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome at this table. Folks come from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and church traditions. Some folks have no church tradition and just want to learn more and be in fellowship with others along the way. Children join in the conversation, or are welcome to play in another part of the dining room. There's a place for everyone here.

Mesa Sagrada is a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the Alaska Synod, ELCA. During the year, leaders from Mesa also host several traditional Latin festivals, such as Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas. Mesa meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Palmer, 10355 E Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

## ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." September 11, 2022

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11 for the ELCA's annual event. We will be making a list of things that need doing around the church buildings, suitable for every member of the family. Let's roll up our sleeves, work together, and make a difference!



## ELCA News

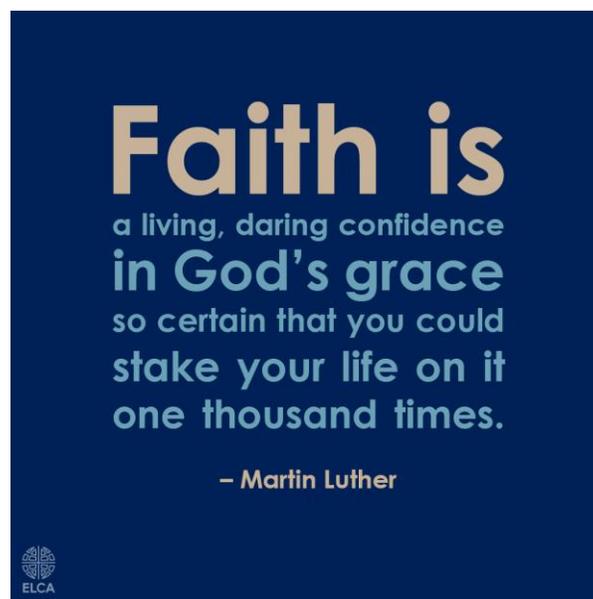
The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, met from August 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's theme was "Embody the Word," based on Luke 24:45. You can find a summary of the Churchwide actions from this meeting [HERE](#), on the ELCA web site under "News."



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Large Print Worship Bulletins

If anyone needs large print Bulletins on Sundays, please let the church office know by Thursday each week so we know how many to print.



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